

## **4-month Biological Volunteer Position at Palmyra Atoll National Wildlife Refuge**

### **Description**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is seeking two volunteers available from early June through September 2018 to perform vegetation control and biological monitoring efforts at Palmyra Atoll National Wildlife Refuge. Palmyra Atoll is located in the central Pacific Ocean, about 1,000 miles south of Hawaii. It is uninhabited except for a small crew of field station staff and Service personnel. Volunteers will have the rare opportunity to live in this remote setting surrounded by rainforest, seabirds, coconut crabs and rich coral reefs.

**Duties and Responsibilities:** Volunteers will be expected to work 8 hours/day, 6 days/week for the entire ~4 months without any chance of leaving the atoll. Specific projects may include invasive plant removal using both mechanical and herbicide techniques; native tree propagation; mosquito monitoring; seabird and shorebird monitoring; nesting turtle surveys; reef monitoring by snorkel; data entry and report writing; and, contributing to the cleaning/maintenance/repair work needed to keep a station and projects running in a remote tropical environment.

Palmyra is a thickly forested set of islands with abundant rainfall; hot, humid temperatures; and rustic living conditions. Definitive medical care facilities are 1,000 miles away and may take 1-4 days to reach. Volunteers must be prepared to not have any resupplies during their time on the atoll. Most work days will involve motor boat or kayak operations. Palmyra's marine environment is dominated by apex predators and reef sharks are present and will be seen on a daily basis.

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### **Qualifications**

Volunteers must be:

- U.S. citizens and possess a current Passport that does not expire for at least 1-year.
- Physically and mentally fit for living and working on a remote atoll. Strong, healthy bodies are critical.
- Able to walk at least 10-miles a day over variable terrain including water-covered sand flats, thick rainforests and open beaches as well as be able to perform snorkel surveys for at least 1 hour at time.
- Kayak for up to 6-miles in a day to commute to field sites.
- Able to pass a swim/snorkel test.
- Able to lift and carry 50-lbs, ride a bicycle, swim, and be able to perform repetitive stooping and bending motions. Candidates must be able to perform all duties in equatorial weather conditions including high heat and humidity, strong winds, and rain.

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Volunteers must be able to work well independently as well as side-by-side for extended periods of time. The best-suited candidates will be easy-going with a good sense of humor

and flexible under changing conditions. Possession of a valid U.S. driver's license is preferred. Prior experience in the following is preferred, but not required: remote long-term camping or rustic living; operating small motorboats and kayaks; invasive plant control; shorebird and seabird identification and monitoring; entomological surveying; familiarity with GIS tools and software; data management; pesticide application; and, general maintenance of equipment and facilities.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will provide:

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- Housing and a \$40/day reimbursement stipend for food costs for each day in Honolulu;
  - Transportation between Honolulu and the Refuge; and
  - Food, housing and quarantine clothes while on Palmyra.
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The Honolulu stipend will not be paid up front so volunteers will need to have sufficient finances to provide for their own food for the 3-6 days they will be needed in Honolulu both before and after their time on the Refuge.

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## **To Apply**

Please send a resume/CV with at least 3 references and a single page cover letter. E-mail the application materials and any questions to Refuge Manager Stefan Kropidlowski at: [Stefan.Kropidlowski@fws.gov](mailto:Stefan.Kropidlowski@fws.gov)

Applications will be accepted until the positions are filled. Interviews will be scheduled starting May 7<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers will be asked to start in Honolulu the week of June 4<sup>th</sup> with departure for Palmyra soon after that.

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